

UNIMPRESSIVE WYCOMBE EDGE NEARER TITLE

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Hemel Hempstead 0

A TONY HORSEMAN penalty goal, 20 minutes into the second half, gave Wycombe a deserved but unconvincing victory in their Premier Midweek Floodlight League game with Hemel Hempstead at Loakes Park on Tuesday evening.

However, despite their unimpressive display they gained two more points in their bid for the Floodlight League title, and Hemel's defeat leaves them at the bottom with only one win to their credit.

Wycombe can take consolation that their defence was never troubled seriously by the Athenians and Kevin O'Brien had another 90 minutes of eventless

football in goal. However they may well be disturbed with their inability to put the ball into the net more often—and they had the chances.

The first half was very much a battle for midfield supremacy, with Johnny Hutchinson showing a welcome return to form before the Cup tie against his old club. Horseman came close with a free kick from 30 yards that skimmed the crossbar.

With Wanderers' midfield trio of Faulkner, Thomas and Stephenson blotting out the threat of Waller and Court, Wanderers had the majority of possession but failed to use it.

Hemel Hempstead's Watts was booked a minute into the second half for kicking Keith Blunt.

Keith Searle hit an upright after 47 minutes and 'keeper Sutherland was always in trouble with Hutchinson's accurate crosses.

Charlie Gale put in a good 35-yard effort after 63 minutes but it was Horseman who added another goal to his growing tally when he shot home the spot kick after Austin had handled inside his area.

Wycombe Wanderers: O'Brien; Rundle, Gale; Stephenson, Faulkner, Thomas; Anthony, Blunt, Searle, Horseman, Hutchinson. Sub.: Baker (not used).